- Segregation, collection, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of biomedical waste.
- Handling and disposal of sharps, especially auto-disable (AD) syringes.
- Infection control and personal safety measures.
- Mercury waste disposal
- Monitoring, evaluation, awareness, behavioural change and training to improve skills in bio-medical waste management.

Vacant posts of doctors in rural Bihar

1296. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacant posts of doctors and medical staff in remote villages and inaccessible areas of Bihar; and

(b) whether it is being proposed to appoint doctors on contract basis or utilize unregistered doctors in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per the Rural Health Statistics (RHS) Bulletin (March 2008), 513 positions of doctors. 176 positions of specialists, 237 positions of nurses, 548 positions of lab technicians and 550 positions of pharmacists are vacant in the State of Bihar. To compensate these gaps the state has undertaken contractual recruitment of health service providers under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Introduction of pneumonia vaccine

1297. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the child health bodies urged Government to include pneumonia vaccine in the routine immunization schedule since the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that one child died in India a minute due to pneumonia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the WHO Data published recently reveals that India leads the World with 27 per cent of the global pneumonia cases;

(d) whether Government introduced a pentavalent vaccine which includes Haemophilus influenza (Hib) one of the two bacteria causing pneumonia; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to include Pneumococcal Conjagate Vaccine (PCV) which immunize children against pneumonia?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. The Indian Association of Pediatrics: Committee on Immunization (IAP COI) has recommended for inclusion of Pheumococcal vaccines in the routine immunization schedule, considering the high mortality caused by this disease in children in the country.

(b) The IAP COI has suggested the following schedule for immunization of children with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine: 3 doses to be given at 6,10,14 weeks and 1 booster at 15-18 months of age.

(c) Yes. As per the recent WHO report, India accounts for the maximum 43 million new cases out of 156 million new pneumonia cases reported every year globally.

(d) No.

(e) Government takes a decision on introduction of any new vaccine on the basis of recommendation made by National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI).

VIPs affected by Swine Flu

1298. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Gujarat and the Principal Secretary to the Government of Gujarat Health and Family Welfare Department have been affected by Swine Flu;

(b) if so, who are the other VIPs affected by Swine flu;

(c) what is the total number of persons affected by Swine Flu in India and the persons died out of this disease;

(d) whether it is controlled or being controlled or whether it can be eradicated; and

(e) if so, the time-frame to do so?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per policy, the names of persons found positive for swine flu are not disclosed except to the individual himself/herself.

(c) As on 29th November, 2009, there are 18007 laboratory confirmed cases and 573 deaths due to Pandemic influenza A H1N1 (swine flu).

(d) and (e) The present Influenza Pandemic cannot be eradicated. History of past pandemics suggests that pandemic comes in waves spread over 1-2 years. The first wave that started in India in July 2009 has peaked in some State (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh) and well under control. As of now, States of Rajasthan, Kerala, Haryana, Delhi are showing increasing influenza activity but the situation in these States are also under control.

Expenditure on health

1299. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on health is very low in Government sector as compared to the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;